Secession from Saanich Still a Live Issue

Secession from Saanich is still a live issue in the Ten Mile Point and Queenswood areas, it was reported last night.

And a meeting Monday night to reactivate a ratepayers' association might become the launching pad for a project to secede and then join Oak Bay — if Oak Bay agreed.

"This certainly could be one of the issues we will deal with," said E. J. Leedham, 2515 Arbutus, in announcing the 8 p.m. meeting in St. George's Hall, Cadboro Bay, "to breath life" into the all but defunct Cadboro Bay-Gordon Head Ratepayers' Association.

"We'd like to see all interested ratepayers out at the meeting," he said. "There's much to discuss and we also will be electing new officers."

Mr. Leedham was one of the leaders in the fight last year against the plan to build apartments in the Queenswood area.

"Many people in the Queenswood area, including myself, would be in favor of seceding from Saanich," he said.

"My first choice would be to join Oak Bay—a well-organized municipality right on our doorstep where you get paved roads, sewers and more results for your taxes."

However, Mr. Leedham recalled, "they turned us down years ago, so my second choice would be to join Victoria."

In fact, the whole area south of Royal Oak would be better off to join Victoria, he said, with the area north of Royal Oak becoming part of Central Saanich.

"That would be the proper and logical rural and urban distribution."

Ten Mile Point resident Robin Dunsmuir, 2979 Sea View Road, was another person who said that secession is not a dead issue.

"There's still strong feeling in this area about seceding from Saanich," he said last night.

Oak Bay real estate man Jack Mears, 2684 Sea View Road, said seceding to join Oak Bay was an excellent idea.

"Oak Bay is going to need new area for expansion, anyway," he said.

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Women Want to Keep Fit

Spare-Tire Trouble

There's a weighty problem apparently plaguing scores of women in Langford these days.

They want to do something about their waistlines.

Or at least that could be the reason why so many women "keep-fit" at the top of a questionnaire recently circulated by the Langford Recreation Commission.

"This was the overwhelming choice noted on the 300 questionnaires we got back out of the original 1,000," said Mrs. Joan Peterson, commission, secretary, last night.

"If that's what they want, we'll do our best to see that they get it," she said. The commission will begin to put plans into action at the end of the month, when the bulk of the questionnaires have been returned.

Top choice by Langford men was a rod and gun club. Another great need, residents stressed, was supervised play groups for children.

Early Meeting Promised

Help for Gorge Hospital On Way Soon, Martin Says

Indication that aid may soon be forthcoming for Gorge Road Hospital, which is now threatened with a shutdown because of financial difficulties, was given in the legislature yesterday by Health Minister Eric Martin.

He said he will hold an early meeting with the hospital board to discuss financial difficulties and what kind of patient — acute or chronic — should be taken care of in the Gorge Hospital.

Mr. Martin explained that the long-term care program for chronic patients, announced by the government in 1956, has not yet been implemented because "the most extensive active treatment care program on the continent has been underway in B.C."

DEFINITE SIGNS

He added that there are "definite signs of the long-term care program coming into being soon."

The Gorge Road Hospital was one of the first seven hospitals in the province to be mentioned as coming under the chronic program and it has been a blow to that hospital that it has not yet been able to get hospital insurance payments under chronic care.

DEMANDS FOR ACTION

Mr. Martin was replying to demands for action from Donald Smith (SC, Victoria), George Gregory (Lib., Victoria) and Mrs. Lois Haggen (CCF, Grand Forks-Greenwood).

Frustration in dealing with the provincial health and welfare department has led the Gorge Road Hospital board to seriously consider disbanding and handing the hospital over to the government for operation.

GRAVE CONCERN

Mr. Martin yesterday told the legislature a group of federal hospital officials had recently visited the hospital and were disturbed and expressed grave concern that such an institution would have received federal grants.

Mr. Smith said the hospital operates as both an acute and chronic hospital, but because it has not qualified for hospital insurance payments it has developed mainly into a chronic hospital caring for welfare patients.

Mr. Smith explained that extra services required under the Hospital Act had created extra expenditures for the hospital board, but the government has refused to pay any extra.

90 PER CENT

The government now pays 90 per cent of costs of all welfare patients and the city pays 10 per cent.

He said it would be cheaper for the government as patients at Royal Jubilee Hospital cost the government $17 a day, but only $5.50 a day in the Gorge Hospital.

Mr. Gregory accused the health minister of being a "skinflint and a scallywag."

Mrs. Haggen said she was "disturbed to hear the Gorge Road Hospital does not qualify as a chronic care hospital. The Gorge Road Hospital has served well."

New charter for Queen Alexandra Solarium Scout group is presented to 14-year-old Jack by district commissioner Reginald Girard. Jack has been a patient for five years, recently was fitted with permanent braces. He was stricken with polio in 1953. Group will be known as 44th Victoria.—(Colonist photo.)

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Solarium Scouts Get Charter

Skill and Grit Bring World to Their Beds

World of the outdoors has been brought to their bedside by the courage and determination of a group of boys and girls at Queen Alexandra Solarium.

Boy Scout Association district commissioner Reginald Girard last night presented them with the 44th Victoria Scout group. It consists of 10 Cubs and two Scouts.

They came in beds and wheel chairs. Some used crutches. Almost all wore casts or metal braces on their limbs. But they were determined not to miss out on any Scouting activities.

HAND IT TO THEM

Scoutmaster C. L. Williams said: "You've got to hand it to these youngsters. No matter what you give them to do, they'll do it and do it fast."

His wife is Cubmistress. "It's a treat to teach them," said Mrs. Williams. "They're all such eager youngsters. I only have to tell them once.

"Three weeks ago, I started to teach them semaphore and already three of the boys have grasped it, to the last circle."

Scouting and Guiding has been a "tremendous help" in rehabilitating youngsters who come to the solarium from all parts of B.C. for medical care and schooling, said administrator John Holdstock.

OUTDOOR WORLD

"It means the great world of the outdoors is not denied to them," he said. "It takes courage and determination. But to these youngsters even the impossible is not too difficult."

Interested spectators when the charter was presented were four Girl Guides in the charge of Guide Captain Gail McKevitt, and a three Brownies with Tawny Owl Daisy Ives.

Commissioner Girard shook hands and spoke to each of the youngsters. He told the Scout group: "I want to come back and visit you all again as brother Scouts. And I want to come and have a talk with my girl friends here too."

He was accompanied by assistant district commissioner J. S. Hall.

Mrs. James McKevitt, Girl Guides commissioner for Saanich division, said the guide group would receive its new charter soon.

The Scout and Guide group at the Solarium was originally formed some 20 years ago. The move to its present location last August necessitated a change from the old charter under which it was known as the Malahat group.

Red Glow in the Sky Burning Slag at Sooke

A "red glow" in the sky seen by residents in the View Royal area about 7.30 last night was caused by the Sooke Lake Lumber Co. burning slag along Hallowell Road.

A number of persons, including View Royal Fire Chief Al Beasley saw the glow and drove over to see what was burning.

Look Out Kamloops

Look out, Kamloops. Here come the bulls. Sturdy samples above are part of record entry from lower Vancouver Island headed for championship bull session in the interior city. Handlers are cousins William Turner, Royal Oak, left, and Alec Turner, Jr., Langford.—(Colonist photo)

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Brave Bulls May Repeat

The brave bulls of Lower Vancouver Island did it before and they can take the major share of the champions again.

So look out, 41st annual provincial bull sale and fat stock show at Kamloops, starting Monday.

Heading your way is a record 19 championship-calibre bulls from Island farms that last year took most of the honors in the breeding bull classes.

The bulls were loaded into railway cars yesterday for the start of a two-day journey to Kamloops.

A totoal of 188 beef animals from B.C. ranches is entered in the show.

The Lower Vancouver Island bulls, Shorthorns, Aberdeen Angus and Hereford, are from the farms of James Turner and Son, Royal Oak; Alec Turner and Son, Langford; the Woodwyn Farm of Mrs. W. C. Woodward, Central Saanich; Rex Coombs, Saanichton; and Tom Groves, Duncan.

Around the Island

Creditors Accept Part of Fair Debt

NANAIMO — Vancouver Island Exhibition board creditors here are prepared to accept a city council offer of 80 cents in the dollar but want the remainder made up by Exhibition Board bonds.

Creditors representing about $72,000 of the $105,000 owed by the association made this decision yesterday after first flatly refusing to accept the 80 cents in the dollar from the city.

Exhibition board went into the red during extensive development of Exhibition Park last year. Construction of the Grandview Bowl was one of the largest outlays.

The city came to the rescue earlier this week when it offered to clear the $105,000 debt if creditors would accept 80 cents in the dollar.

Bonds demanded by creditors to make up the difference are part of the $100,000 debenture issue made by the Exhibition Board. About two-thirds of the bonds were still unsold.

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PARKSVILLE—Final decision on Parksville's new fire hall was made at the regular meeting of the village council when the sum of $20,000 was budgeted for that purpose.

Site for the new building is adjacent to Parkview Service.

At the same meeting the sum of $21,000 was passed for general expenses and $11,000 for the waterworks improvement project and $2,000 for operating costs.

J. H. White of Nanaimo is architect for the new fire hall.

A new plan will be put into effect this summer for the use of the municipal garbage dump. Residents will be required to have permit cards to go through the gates during the fire season and those residing outside the village will be required to pay a $2 fee for a permit. A commercial business permit will cost $5.

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NANAIMO—Junior and senior high school here will take part in an inter-high schools track and field meeting at Caledonia Grounds, May 15, it was announced yesterday.

NANAIMO—Provincial Progressive Conservative leader Deane Finlayson will address a Nanaimo Conservative Association meeting in Nanaimo, next Wednesday.

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PORT ALBERNI—Less than a week after being reappointed to West Coast General Hospital board, Henry Riley Pickles, 57, died suddenly Thursday while at work at a local sash and door factory.

Mr. Pickles, a glazier, had worked in this city for the past 14 years. He was a native of Yorkshire, England.

Besides acting as B.C. government representative on the hospital board, Mr. Pickles had been a prominent member of BPO Elks and FOE lodges.

He leaves his wife, Kathleen, at the residence, 308 Fifth Avenue North; his mother, Mrs. C. A. Harris, Port Alberni; two sisters, Mrs. Amelia Johnson and Mrs. Sam Archer, Port Alberni; a foster brother, Fred Archer, Campbell River.

Rites will be held at 2 p.m. Monday in First Baptist Church, Port Alberni, with burial in the veterans' section, Greenwood cemetery. Rev. Donald Miller will officiate.

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The proposed Capital Loans Act, which will enable independent retailers to borrow from banks to cover capital expansion and improvement costs, will be explained to Vancouver Island retailers next week by H. C. Boulton, provincial secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association.

The RMA maintains that the act, which is due to come before Parliament this session, because of the expansion opportunities opened up to the retail merchant, will provide an immediate, temporary, boom in construction and a permanent increase in retail store payrolls.

The present Bank Act, the association contends, does not permit a bank manager to give credit to a retailer using the retailers' premises, his stock and working equipment as collateral for the loan.

Mr. Boulton will be in Ladysmith, Tuesday; Duncan, Wednesday, and Lake Cowichan, Thursday.

Door-to-Door Sale Highly Unlikely

Chances of the Optimist Club receiving city permission to sell Easter baskets from door to door were fairly well reduced to zero yesterday.

City council rejected the club's application for permission last year, but later in the year gave two other organizations permission for door-to-door sales, one without realizing what it was doing, apparently, and the other because a precedent had been set.

But yesterday finance committee of city council decided to put its foot down firmly, advising council that a bylaw required each door-to-door salesman to take out a licence (at a fee of $60).

Members recalled that the 1958 application to sell Easter baskets had been rejected because of complaints from licensed retailers.

"I don't blame them for complaining," said Mayor Percy Scurrah. "They are the people who are paying the business tax."

Langford Hearing Tuesday

A public hearing to consider a proposal to zone part of Langford as an industrial area will be held Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Canadian Legion Hall on Dunford Road.

If the zoning is approved Van Isle Moulding and Millwork Ltd. plans to build a several hundred thousand dollar mill to employ 70 persons immediately and about 150 persons eventually. It would locate next to the existing Rock Gas plant.